*Woodlands Still Full*

# Problem Boy Sets Problem

NANAIMO—Lack of accommodation at Woodlands School for retarded children was noted for the second time in two months in juvenile court here yesterday.

"The whole thing is regrettable," complained Magistrate Lionel Beevor-Potts when faced with the problem of what to do with a 14-year-old boy with a mental age of six who had admitted breaking and entering a Wallace Street residence and stealing 56 cents.

"Though it is not the proper place to send him, I will have to commit him to Brannan Lake School until he can be admitted to Woodlands," the magistrate told welfare and probation officers.

Welfare officer Don Bingham said the boy was "an urgent case for admittance" to Woodlands School in New Westminster.

He hoped there would soon be space available. He recalled that the same problem had arisen with the same boy last November. The boy was given probation at that time.

Since then, however, police said complaint after complaint had been received about the boy's conduct and misdeeds.

## Councils, Workers Deadlock

**DUNCAN—Wage negotiations between members of Duncan civic and North Cowichan federal unions and the Duncan and North Cowichan councils reached a standstill last week.**

**In each case, the employees have asked for a 10-per-cent increase across the board, and the employer groups have said "no."**

**TOUGH TIMBER**

English yew trees, used centuries ago to make the famous longbows, may grow to be 1,000 years old.

# Immigrant Family Victims of Blaze

CAMPBELL RIVER — A British immigrant, his wife and two children are looking for a new home today after being burned out of their rented two-storey home Sunday.

The Red Cross disaster committee has provided bedding and sufficient clothing for the immediate needs of the Robert J. Hughes family.

The family is staying at Painter's Lodge temporarily, after a cabin was offered by Ed Smithengale, manager.

Smouldering walls of the Hughes' home were still standing yesterday but the interior was completely gutted.

The Hughes were visiting neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hudson, who own the burned house, when smoke started pouring from a window.

The Hudsons turned in the fire alarm.

Some furniture was salvaged but the Hughes lost all their personal belongings.

**KEEN-SIGHTED ANIMAL**

The North American pronghorn antelope can spot a moving coyote three or four miles distant.

## 'Dime Mile' Slushed Out

**NANAIMO—Junior Chamber of Commerce "Mile of Dimes" was cancelled Saturday when Jaycees couldn't lay collection tapes because of slush on the sidewalks. Campaign will be held this Saturday beginning at 9 a.m.**

*Will Produce $2,324*

# Two-Mill Rate Set For Crofton Area

DUNCAN — A tax rate of two mills has been set by North Cowichan council for the Crofton fire protection district, a local improvement area. Ratepayers voted for a maximum tax rate of 2½ mills in December.

Reeve C. A. P. Murison said that the two-mill rate fixed for this year will produce more revenue than the 2½ mills would have done on the 1958 assessment total. "In 1958 2½ mills would have produced $2,202," he said. "This year, two mills will produce $2,324."

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Too Much for Too Little

# *Strachan Hits Tax Burdens*

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan (CCF, Cowichan-Newcastle) yesterday charged in the legislature that Premier Bennett "is taxing the people of British Columbia far too much for the service they are being given."

In a stinging attack on the Social Credit government's debt refunding policies, Mr. Strachan charged the premier with using "accounting methods that have allowed accounting statements to become the tools of propaganda."

**PEOPLE CATCH ON**

"The people are beginning to catch on," Mr. Strachan said.

"I am not saying the Social Credit government has not put more money in sinking funds than required.

"It has.

"But how could putting sums into supplementary sinking funds increase employment?"

During his battling 2½-hour speech to open the budget debate, Mr. Strachan said:

"Their policies have created economic instability in B.C. which far exceeds any other province.

"This government has been an easy mark for financiers of the world."

**FISCAL FANTASY**

Premier Bennett's budget is a "fiscal fantasy."

"British Columbia has undergone rapid expansion, but it has been the most erratic and uneasy province in Canada.

"There has been an appalling lack of rational long-term policy by this government.

"This government spends money lavishly on showy public works.

"This government would much rather see trade unions in B.C. wrecked than take their just defeat at the polls.

"The first thing that comes to my mind for the initials SC for Social Credit is Sanctimonious Creeps, but I, of course, wouldn't think of using such a term."

All through the Throne Speech debate different members paid tribute to the late forestry adviser, Hon. Gordon McGregor Sloan, Mr. Strachan said.

**BEST TRIBUTE**

"The greatest tribute we could pay him would be to follow the recommendations he brought down in his last report.

He said the $28 home owners grant is not coming close to keeping up with increased taxes under the Equalization of Assessment Act.

"As usual, many of the premier's statements on debt were meaningless," Mr. Strachan said.

"How can you pay millions more than you collect if you pay your way as you go?" he asked.

He said there has been a change in the government fiscal policies under the Socreds and that school construction costs, roads, bridges and ferries all used to be shown as public debt.

**SHUFFLED OFF**

"But where in the public debt do we find them now?" he asked. "They have all been shuffled off to another column."

He said $86,000,000 was shown in the budget for public schools construction under the act of 1953 and that 50 per cent of that is the responsibility of the province to pay and the other 50 per cent that of the school boards concerned.

"This is debt. This is money for which bonds have been issued. Bonds on which there are interest coupons," he said.

"This is not a happy budget . . . this is not a happy government," he said. "It doesn't sweep away the problems. It is a maze of words designed not to tell the whole story."

## School Vandals Invade Oaklands

Damage by vandals to five rooms in Oaklands School was reported to city police Sunday night.

Culprits apparently entered the building by a lower-floor window. Damage was extensive to one classroom, and lighter in the other four.


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